

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

The only written record of the trip that has been preserved was in the journal of John Crook. He wrote:

"April 30, 1859, we camped at a snowslide in Provo Canyon that night. The next morning we pulled our wagons to pieces and carried them to the top of the snowslide which was about a quarter of a mile wide. Our May Day excursion consisted of traveling on up the canyon from the snowslide to William Wall's ranch where we camped. The next day we crossed Daniels' Creek on the ice. There were heavy drifts of snow behind the willow bushes. We thought we were the first settlers to arrive in the valley that Spring, but when we reached the present site of Heber we saw two teams plowing north of us which proved to be William Heber and Davidson plowing with two yoke of oxen and Robert Broadhead and James Davis with a similar outfit between them. We found that William Davidson had his family here, which I believe was the first family in the valley."

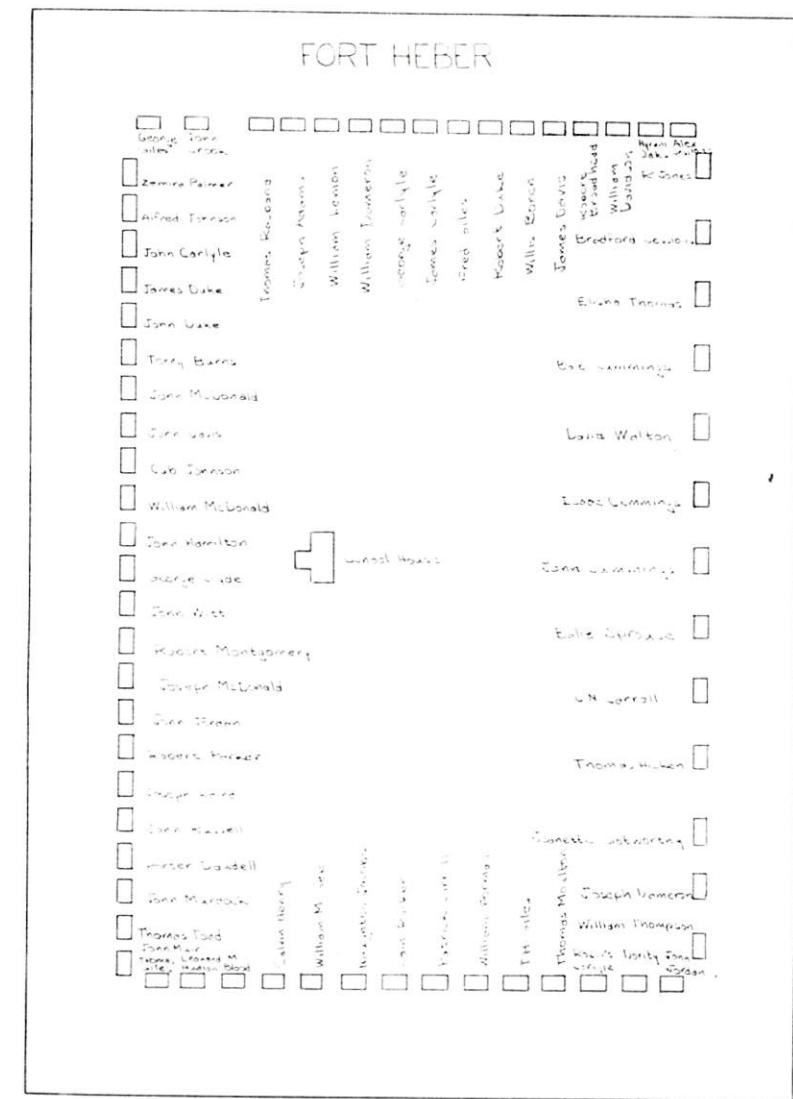
Exchanging greetings with the men whom they found already in the valley, the group went on to a spring about a mile north of the present site of Heber. They made their camp here, as John Crook notes in his journal, because this was considered the best land in the valley. As their camp was the largest in the valley and most of them originally had come from Great Britain, they called it London. The spring by which they camped still retains that name.

The first order of business was for each man to claim his section of land, either 20 or 40 acres, and begin as quickly as possible to prepare the ground for planting. Much of the earth was covered with sagebrush, which proved very thick and hard to clear. Yet with a prayer in their hearts and a song of faith on their lips they cleared away the brush and planted not only the seeds of new crops but also the seeds of new homes and a new valley for themselves and those they loved.

As the crops were being planted the men camped in tents or in the wagons, but they soon spent some of their time in laying out a townsite and building log houses. They decided to build closer together in a fort and protect themselves from Indians if that became necessary. They selected the northwest corner of the townsite for the fort string of huts.

About the middle of June, 1859, Jesse Fuller, deputy county surveyor of Utah County, commenced a survey of the London townsite. The initial point was established at the north end of what is now Main Street. The first line was run along the west side of Main Street, the blocks being made 24 rods square and the streets five rods wide. Each block was divided into four lots, 12 rods square. A tract of eight blocks south and five and one-half blocks west of the initial point was laid off into blocks and lots forming a rectangle about three-fourths of a mile long and one-half mile wide. This formed the west half of the townsite. The east half was similarly laid off some months later, leaving Main Street seven rods wide.

... AND THERE WAS LIFE IN THE VALLEY



Old Fort Heber showing the locations of the families who built their homes there in 1859.

The area for the fort was 80 rods square, lying between what is now First West and Fourth West Streets and 2nd North and 5th North Streets.

Within that fort area the company of men built their houses close together, with sufficient openings to let their stock in and out. The houses were built with green cottonwood logs that were cut on the river bottoms.

Cummings, Barr W. Musser. 1909, E. J. Cummings, Geo. W. Daybell, John W. Moffitt. 1911, E. J. Cummings, George Daybell, John W. Moffitt. 1913, H. W. Harvey, E. J. Cummings, John W. Moffitt. 1915, H. W. Harvey, E. J. Cummings, John M. Ritchie. 1917, Wilford Van Wagoner, E. J. Cummings, John M. Ritchie. 1919, George A. Huntington, H. W. Harvey, John M. Ritchie. 1921, John Van Wagoner, H. W. Harvey, J. Parley Edwards. 1923, John A. Fortie, John M. Ritchie, J. Parley Edwards. 1925, Andrew Murdock, John M. Ritchie, Clark Bronson. 1927, Andrew Murdock, Paul Hunt, Nels J. Johnson. 1929, Jesse Nelson, Paul Hunt, Sumner Hatch. (1931, Jesse Nelson, Guy E. Coleman, Sumner Hatch. 1933, Jesse Nelson, Guy E. Coleman, Sumner Hatch. 1935, Jesse Nelson, Guy E. Coleman, Joseph T. Murdock. 1937, H. Clay Cummings, Guy E. Coleman, George A. Gardner. 1939, H. Clay Cummings, Guy E. Coleman, Jesse Nelson. 1941, Guy E. Coleman, Jesse Nelson, Harry Morris. 1943, Guy E. Coleman, Jesse Nelson, John Anderson. 1945, Guy E. Coleman, Jesse Nelson, John Anderson. 1947, Guy E. Coleman, Floyd Bonner, John Anderson. 1949, Guy E. Coleman, Clyde Ritchie, Heber R. Winterton. 1951, Guy E. Coleman, Clyde Ritchie, Heber R. Winterton. 1953, Guy E. Coleman, James L. Barnes, Heber R. Winterton. 1955, Guy E. Coleman, William J. Bond, James L. Barnes. 1957, Guy E. Coleman, William J. Bond, Elmo A. Jacobsen. 1959, Guy E. Coleman, William J. Bond, Walter Montgomery.

Treasurers having held office are: John M. Murdock, James Duke, William H. McDonald, Joseph Hatch, Robert Duke, Richard Tilt, William McMillan, LaVina Murdock, Millie Witt, Gladys Briggs, Geneva B. Clift, Mabel Murdock, Mary L. Giles, Grace Crook (Buys) June J. Wheeler.

Assessors: John Harvey, Thomas H. Giles, Charles N. Carroll, John Huber, George Giles, J. W. Witt, Thomas Hicken Jr., P. H. McGuire, Jacob Probst, J. Parley Edwards, J. T. Pyper, Guy Duke.

Surveyors: John Sessions, William Buys, S. A. Bond, George Barzee, B. S. Kershaw, Edward Buys, Craig Harmiston, A. R. Duke and Harry A. Doppler.

Recorders and Clerks: Charles Shelton, John Gallagher, T. H. Giles, Joseph A. Murdock, John T. Giles, C. J. Wahlquist, James R. McNaughton, Thomas S. Watson, James C. Jensen, Charles E. Bronson, Alfred Sharp, Wayne C. Whiting.

Attorneys: Silas Smith, R. Camp, William Buys, M. J. Shelton, W. S. Willes, C. J. Wahlquist, L. C. Montgomery, Edwin D. Hatch, George B. Stanley, Glen S. Hatch, Glen M. Hatch, J. Harold Call, Richard L. Maxfield.

Sheriffs: Snelling A. Johnson, John Hamilton, Richard Jones, John Clyde, J. H. Fraughton, James S. Murdock, W. S. Willis, Robert Clyde, William Bonner, J. O. Wall, Virgil Fraughton, George Durnell, William Murray, Charles McPhie, Eugene D. Payne, Floyd L. Witt.

*Jesse Fuller
Deputy Surveyor of Utah Co
(HBUM pp 8, 9, 205-8)*

Jesse Fuller ^{2 w/m weeks} 1 June 1859 deputy surveyor of Ut Co

" " crew July 1859 surveyed Heber City Plat & laid out a fort 40 rods square on NW corner of the City Plat log cabins started to be built.

1859 Elias Cox & John Hamilton built 1st houses

1860 Built 1st Meeting House (log)

. 11.

See these References:

1. HBUM pp 30, 205-8, 542, 543, 8, 9,

Government for the Future

Government, designed to do for groups of people what they cannot do for themselves individually, has been the political tradition through the years in Heber City. Large political organizations or bureaucratic operations have been non-existent, as those elected to office have sought only one goal: to make Heber a better place in which to live.

Settlers who first came to the valley were schooled in the righteous principles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and easily governed themselves. As the community grew, Church leaders assumed the role of directing civic as well as religious matters. Then the two areas began to separate in their needs and government officials came into the picture.

As outlined in Chapter 4 the first government unit in the valley came with the organization of Wasatch County by the Territorial Legislature on January 17, 1862. Major officers of the county government were a probate judge and selectmen. These officials, along with other assistants, directed the activities of all communities in the county until 1889 when Heber City was organized as a township, followed in 1891 by Midway and then by the other communities in later years.

One of the first governmental services afforded residents of the new settlement came even before many settlers arrived in the valley. During June of 1859, Jesse Fuller, deputy county surveyor of Utah County, came to the valley and surveyed the new location. He established the initial point of the community at the north end of Main Street on a west side lot long known as George W. Clyde's corner.

The Fuller survey plotted blocks 24 rods square, with the streets designated as five rods wide. Each block was divided into four lots 12 rods square. This first survey included a tract eight blocks south of the initial point and five and one-half blocks west, making the townsite three quarters of a mile long and one-half mile wide.

The first homes built in the settlement in 1859 and 1860 were in the fort area which comprised 80 square rods between what is now First West and Fourth West streets and Second North and Fifth North Streets.

A few months after the west part of Heber was surveyed, the east area of the townsite was laid out, with Main Street left as seven rods wide. The southern part of Heber City was at first homesteaded by Jonathan Clegg, and included an area a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide. In 1875 Mr. Clegg sold three 40-acre sections to Wasatch County

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS
MAYORS OF HEBER CITY



James W. Clyde



Joseph A. Rasband



Joseph R. Murdock



John E. Moulton



Edward D. Clyde



H. Ray Hatch



John A. Fortie



Elisha J. Duke



J. E. McMullin

for only \$150, stipulating that the land should be subdivided into city lots and sold to raise money to support the city schools.

The land was appraised by Thomas H. Giles, Probate Judge, Abram Hatch, Bishop of the Church and Thomas Rasband, trustee for the schools. These appraisers met several different times to consider the prices to be asked for the lots and finally on August 29, 1876 decided that the prices would range from \$12 to \$20 per lot depending on the exact size. The average lot was 10 by 12 rods in size.

The surveyors who laid out the first lots in Heber City used the best

GOVERNMENT FOR THE FUTURE

MAYORS OF HEBER CITY



H. Clay Cummings



L. C. Montgomery



Harold Stevens



Ralph F. Giles



Joseph Hyton



Maron R. Hiatt



Raymond N. Jacoletti

equipment available to them, but it was limited in many ways. In 1888, about a year before Heber was organized as a township, William Buys, Wasatch County surveyor, checked the city and found it was "crooked."

His field notes record an entry on June 12, 1888 as follows:

"Made a preliminary survey of Main Street and the street running East and West North of Public Square known as Bk. 90.

"Find that the streets do not run at right angles.

"Also that the blocks by actual measurement overrun."

He then recorded in his notes the surveying work done through June 23, 1888 in which he adjusted the city to true measurements.

By 1889 Heber was ready for organization as a township, and Henry Aird was appointed as the first town board president. He served until 1894 when Thomas Huskinson Giles was elected and served two years. James W. Clyde was elected in 1896 and served until the election of Edward D. Clyde in 1898. Robert Duke followed in 1900 and served until 1902 when articles of incorporation were drawn up and the town became an officially incorporated city.

James W. Clyde was elected as the city's first mayor, with membership of the new city council consisting of Joseph Hatch, E. J. Cummings, David C. Hanks, George A. Wootton and Joseph A. Murdock.

An early action by the mayor and city council consisted of calling for bids to run the sprinkling wagon through the city on dusty summer days. Bidders and their prices per day included Ed Tilt, \$2.80; Bert Tilt, \$2.50; J. C. Murdock, \$2.40; Harmon Cummings, \$2.50; Walter Wickham, \$2.25 and John Carlile, \$2.48.

The council acted on the "lowest qualified bid" and hired Mr. Wickham to sprinkle the streets.

In the election of November, 1903, candidates aligned themselves with the Democratic and Republican political parties, and the Democrats won a sweeping community victory.

The new city officials were Joseph A. Rasband, mayor; John T. Giles, four-year councilman; Joseph R. Murdock, A. B. Murdock, Orson Ryan and F. L. Clegg, two-year councilmen; David W. Hicken, marshal; LaVina Murdock, recorder; George Barzee, treasurer and Livingston Montgomery, justice of the peace.

In May of 1905 the city officials promoted a bond election to raise \$40,000 for the purpose of installing a water system. By 1905 the city council was able to pass the following ordinance:

"That a water works system be constructed to supply its inhabitants with water and shall be known and designated as Heber City Water Works. The said system shall be the property of said city."

Early the following spring, work was underway to complete the system. The main source of supply was the Broadhead Spring, east of the city.

Heber's third mayor was elected in the fall of 1905 and served during 1906 and 1907. He was Joseph R. Murdock. Serving with him on the city council were David Fisher, John T. Giles, Robert Duke, Joseph E. D. Tomlinson and John E. Moulton. Joseph A. Murdock was recorder with Moroni Moulton, treasurer; David W. Hicken, marshal and Fred L. Clegg, justice of the peace.

A significant cultural step was taken by Mayor Murdock in November,

GOVERNMENT FOR THE FUTURE

209

1907 when \$500 was appropriated for the establishment of a public library and community reading room.

The city council considered several possible locations for the library, including rooms above Jeff's store, the old Turner Hall and store, Buell's Hall and upstairs rooms in the new Heber Mercantile building. After considerable discussion the council moved that the two rooms above the Mercantile Company be rented for \$10 per month. This library was later consolidated with county facilities.

By January, 1908, Mayor James W. Clyde, the city's fourth chief executive, had been elected and sworn into office. Elected to serve with him as city councilmen were John E. Moulton, four-year term and David Fisher, John W. Crook, William T. Wootton and Robert Duke, two-year terms. Joseph A. Murdock continued as recorder, with Royal J. Murdock as treasurer and Andrew Lindsay as marshal.

During Mayor Clyde's term the need for electric power was being felt in the community. Other locations in the state had obtained electricity, and many Heber residents desired the convenience and service of this new power source.

It seemed natural that the city government should take the lead in building power facilities, and on September 20, 1908 members of the Heber Commercial Club proposed to the council that the city construct a power plant on property north of Heber. They estimated that the project would cost about \$50,000.

Mayor Clyde and the council received the proposition favorably and began immediate action to select a suitable site. Three possible locations were selected, and finally ten acres owned by the Hatch family north of town were purchased for \$2,000 and the project was on its way.

At a council meeting on October 14, 1908, the communities of Midway and Charleston were asked to join in building the proposed power plant, with Midway to own one-fourth interest and Charleston one-eighth. Wallburg was also invited to participate to the extent of its needs but they secured their power from another source. At this same meeting a bond election to finance the construction was fixed for December 29, 1908. The citizens were to be asked to approve bonding for \$32,000.

In the meantime, the council hired George A. Wootton on November 16, 1908, to be general supervisor of the plant at a salary of \$100 per month, with Mr. Wootton to furnish his own horse and buggy and feed for the horse.

The December bond election was nearly unanimous, with only eight of the 120 voters who went to the polls casting negative ballots. The new plant was assured, and the council selected the name "Heber Light and Power Plant" as the official name of the new venture. Also named was an executive committee to manage the plant. Chosen for the committee were Mayor Clyde, Councilmen Moulton and Dusen and Duke of Heber, Atwell Wootton Sr. of Midway and John O. Edwards of Charleston.

was crude it was still another step forward in making the new valley more livable.

The time of planting and harvesting in 1861 came and went and the snows of another winter fell on more than 50 families who comprised the Snake River settlements. Then as the summer of 1862 arrived there was sufficient community spirit between the two groups that the first meeting house in the area was constructed. It was built of logs with a dirt roof and floor and was erected in the upper settlement, or Mound City. It was completed in time for the July 24th celebration. As it was nearing completion, the Presiding Bishop of the valley, Joseph S. Murdock of Heber, appointed Sidney Harmon Epperson to be presiding elder of the upper settlement. The lower settlement of more than 20 families was designated as a teacher's district of the upper settlement.

Elder Epperson was sustained in a meeting on June 26, 1862. He chose as his counselors John Fausett and Samuel Thompson. His calling as presiding elder proved him to be a man of faith and courage. He felt the responsibility of leadership and strove for unity among his people.

Side by side he worked with them in grubbing willows and sage brush, breaking land and making irrigation ditches, constructing roads, digging dugways to the canyons for fire wood, blasting rock and bridging streams.

Pioneering for the early Snake Creek settlers was a full-time job, 24 hours every day. However, by 1866 the lives of the people were further complicated with Indian problems. Restless red-men resented the encroachment by white men on their favorite hunting and trapping grounds, and often threatened the security of the new settlers. So, early in 1866 plans were made to abandon the rambling settlements along Snake Creek.

The axiom that there is "strength in numbers" and the wisdom of compromise are probably the two most important factors underlying the establishment of Midway, the thriving community that grew out of the two Snake Creek settlements.

The Indian troubles of 1866 made the settlers and leaders aware that the sprawling Snake Creek settlements would be highly vulnerable to the type of attacks being used by the Indians.

So it was that the upper and lower settlements on Snake Creek were advised to come together as one community. Tradition has it, however, that a warm contest ensued as to which community should join which. Each saw the virtue of their own position and desired not to move. However, a compromise location was chosen half way between the two settlements, and the new site was called, appropriately enough, Midway.

The first step in laying out the new settlement was a survey of the area. With Sidney H. Epperson and John Huber carrying the tapes and Mark Smith and Attewell Wootton Sr., the pegs, the city of Mid-

way was soon laid out with a public square in the center and ample city blocks surrounding the square.

Then began the work of "forting in." Around the central square some 75 primitive dirt-roofed log cabins sprang into existence, some abutting against each other, while between others were erected strong panels of upright posts. In this manner an impregnable wall was formed around the square. Small windows were provided at strategic points to serve as portholes in case of attack. Life in the new fort-string was conducted under military law, with officers and picket patrols acting at the call of the bugler, John Watkins.

Fort Midway brought to the people a sense of well provided security, and by bringing them close together helped develop a new happiness and community spirit. Fortunately, the fort was never attacked, though the settlers were ready to defend their lives and homes at any time. The fact that the fort was not molested speaks highly of the ability of the pioneers to cooperate in community projects.

The first 75 families in the old fort and their locations are as follows:

From the southwest to the northwest corner: Sidney H. Epperson, Jeremiah Robey, J. A. Robey, Simon Higgenbotham, George Snyder, Thomas Ritter, Edwin Bronson, Samuel Thompson, Ira Jacobs, Washington Clift, Moroni Blood, John Huber, John Wintsch, George Dabling.



An artist's sketch by Bill Whitaker depicting the establishment of Fort Midway in 1866.

FUTTERER, ALMON. Came to Utah with the first pioneers.
Married ~~Louise~~ Wymann, born May 26, 1852. Their children:
Thaddeus Edgar b. Jan. 13, 1853, m. Juliette Dahn; Frank-
lin Pierce b. April 27, 1855, m. Rosalie Dalton; John Hyrum
b. Aug. 30, 1857, m. Ellen Landblad. **881**